



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

DOUGLAS KRESS
DIRECTOR

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
April 2, 2020
Open Conference Call

Present:

Douglas Kress, Director
Brian Green, MD (Chair)
Paula Machado, Board Member
Robert Ciccio, Board Member

Absent:

None

Guests: Annie Fowler

Meeting Called to Order:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was called to order at 6:07pm. It was seconded by Mr. Ciccio.

Approval of March 19, 2020 Minutes: On a motion made by Dr. Green, the March 19, 2020 minutes were approved. It was seconded by Mr. Ciccio.

Covid19 Updates: As we gear up to the health care surge in front of us; we are trying to make sure our staff are in place to continue do phone calls, make contact with indivial who test positive and help them monitor their health at home so that we can try to alleviate some of that surge within the hospitals. The city has shut down constructions sites, stay in place/home was ordered, non-essential businesses were told closed, in order to slow the spread of the virus. Food services to the residents in need is up and running. COA is getting food to seniors and Lisa Robinson is working at the Food Pantry to distribute food and deliveries of food. Meals on Wheels are still in operation. The School Department is also involved with food distribution efforts as well. Grocery stores are now limiting the number of shoppers in their stores so the 6' social distancing is more manageable and to further help employees and shoppers to be safe. Our economic development groups who are doing a lot of work with small businesses making sure they are aware of what programs are available as they come on board from the federal, state governments to help support them. Mr. Ciccio mentioned a new online tool call Buoy to help resident's ac\assess their symptoms and find the right care you can access this free tool at buoy.com/mass. It is only available in Spanish right now. CHA is still planning on closing their Emergency Room on April 30, 2020 and opening their Urgent Care on May 1, 2020. The city is looking to using local hotels for staffing, first responders, essential workers will be able to stay there. The city has also working with Tufts to see if they had dormitories available as back up and they are working with CHA for extra beds. The VNA has been on lockdown to protect its residents. A short discussion on wearing a mask, are the homemade ones effective.

Next meeting – Virtually

Thursday, April 16, 6:00pm

Adjournment:

On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08 pm. It was seconded by Mr. Ciccio.

List of Documents:

Notice/Agenda, March 19, 2020 Minutes

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Henkle-Teixeira
Board Secretary
April 7, 2020